Daily Report

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ICFTU Says Paraguay 'Cruel Dictatorship'

PY1709195388 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0304 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 16 Sep (EFE)—According to a report submitted to the 15th World Conference of the ICFTU today, the Paraguayan people have been enduring "one of the most cruel dictatorships in the Southern Cone," for the last 30 years.

The ICFTU is made up of 141 trade unions and represents 87 million workers worldwide. Its committee for the defense of human and union rights ended a 3-day meeting in Santiago today.

After analyzing the situation in Chile and Colombia, the committee focused its discussion on the report on Paraguay. According to this report, General Alfredo Stroessner's regime "has implemented a system of repression that is especially directed at the workers and the most needy sectors of the society."

The report adds that the de facto government has institutionalized methods of repression that violate human dignity and pay no heed to the people's desire to live together in peace.

According to the report, the economic policy enforced strictly to the detriment of workers, peasants, and humble people has resulted in soaring unemployment rates, a lack of means to ensure a minimum subsistence, low wages, and a lack of communication between the workers and the government and employers.

The report states that the gap between the rich and poor is becoming more and more obvious in Paraguay, "where social injustice is a component of the system of government."

The ICFTU claims that "An oligarchy made up of landowners, smugglers, and drug traffickers is the economic, social, and political framework which, although it constitutes only a minority of the 2.5 million Paraguayans, is the pillar that lends support to Stroessner's dictatorship."

The report emphasizes that last year's inflation was 34 percent, that according to opposition sources more than 300,000 people are unemployed, and that many thousands of others receive salaries below the minimum wage in effect for industrial workers, as is the case of the teachers, who are paid only one-third of the minimum wage.

It adds that "Open violation of human and union rights has been and still is an everyday occurrence." Arrests of union and political leaders and those who demand the reinstatement of democracy are so frequent that they no longer surprise Paraguayan society or the international community.

On the subject of freedom of expression, the report states that the control and censorship of news media and the harassment of independent or dissident journalists has been systematic "to the point of making it impossible for them to do their work."

According to the ICFTU report, the many constitutional laws are of no avail in the face of the all powerful regime because the laws that guarantee people's rights are meaningless before the absolute power of the dictatorship.

The report concludes that despite these difficult conditions the forces of the opposition are waging a constant struggle against the regime and making positive efforts toward unity.

Once the Paraguayan situation was analyzed and discussed, the ICFTU committee for the defense of human and union rights approved a resolution to be submitted to the ICFTU Executive Board.

According to this resolution, ICFTU should recommend that its member unions pressure the governments of their respective countries to exert influence on international financial organizations to tie all loans and technical or economic aid to the Paraguayan Government to the reestablishment of freedom and democracy in Paraguay.

Cuba

Minister Meets With Human Rights Commission

FL1709021888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The delegation from the UN Human Rights Commission, which is visiting the country at the invitation of the Cuban Government, has met in Havana with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

The group, headed by Commission Chairman, Ambassador Alioune Sene, later toured the historic area of Havana where Eusebio Leal, historian of the city, gave the visitors an extensive briefing on efforts to restore the zone.

Personalities Meet Commission

FL1909165188 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] A group of Cuban personalities from the world of science, art, and literature met with the Human Rights Commission delegation that is visiting the country. The renowned author Miguel Barnet welcomed the delegation. The restaurant Las Ruinas in Lenin Park hosted the meeting, and presented a folkloric show illustrating the roots of Cuban culture.

Rodriguez Comments on International Affairs

FL1509185588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Sep 88

["Special Program" entitled "By the Roads of the South" including an interview with Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, by Mexican journalist Luis Suarez and originally carried on Mexico's television channel 11—date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Suarez] What is the economic, social, and political situation of the Third World countries—known at times as underdeveloped countries and at other times as developing countries? Are there solutions? Are there recipies to [word indistinct] the depressed economies while highly industrialized countries of the North have become strong at the expense of the suffering, weaknesses, and depression from which the developing countries' economies suffer? Is it beneficial for the chiefs of state, scholars, and important persons of developing countries to meet to find solutions? What is the South Commission? The South Commission was created in June 1987 to make a new objective analysis of the economic, social, and political problems which face Third World countries, and to analyze how to deal with those problems with political and proposed strategies which emerge from the very [word indistinct] based on its needs. Formed by [words indistinct] who act individually, the members of the South Commission, nevertheless, have the reputation of having held public offices and who [together] represent experiences of (?action), study, and thought.

The commission is presided over by the former president of Tanzania, Dr Julius Nyerere. To be called a South country is more than a geographical connotation against the rich and highly industrialized North—which is not exclusively a geographical indicator since Japan also belongs to that North although it is in the east. These are countries which generally were also (?fomer) centers of the broken down colonial (?world). The commission is trying to build cooperation among the South-South countries having the same development conditions which are behind or unequal. It is trying to coordinate actions and take advantage of the great potential of resources that the world in development has available—which is frequently exploited without receiving adequate compensation from the industrialized world.

The second meeting of the South Commission was held in Kuala Lumpur from 1 to 3 March 1988. The third meeting was held in Mexico City and Cocoyoc, Morelos from 5 to 8 August 1988. One of its illustrious members, Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, gives us the diagnosis of the commission, the analysis of the situation and of the critical (?outlook).

[Suarez] Carlos Rafael, has the precipitation of the economic crisis, and the major pressures derived from it affecting the Third World countries, somewhat interrupted, in its short time, the existence and activity of the South Commission?

[Rodriguez] A true economic crisis exists because we are suffering the effects of the crisis since the beginning of the eighties. I don't think that the crisis has been precipitated. The crisis has continued, and the South Commission was created precisely as a result of that crisis. A group of personalities from various countries had been thinking about the need to do something to save the South from its great anguish and agony. Therefore, the commission was formed as an initiative, and former Tanzanian President Nyerere emerged as the one who crystalized this idea.

You know that it was the Nonaligned Movement in Harare which [words indistinct]. When Nyerere began to call a group of people from all over the world—27 in all, who were chosen not because of his country, but because of (?his) personal significance and his thinking—[words indistinct] working with him in this urgent task. I don't think the commission (?has been) interrupted. On the contrary, (?it) emerged barely a year ago, in July 1987. Naturally, time is short and it has been working [words

indistinct] and we began to really take shape now in the meeting in Mexico, although in Kuala Lumpur we did sign a very important document on the foreign debt which you know about.

[Suarez] Some people have noted that the discussions and studies of the South Commission are too theoretical and academic and that it is truly apart from the direct [words indistinct] of the people who are the ones who suffer from the crisis. Does that go along with the need for practical actions and changes or the reorganization of the commission? Has this been discussed at the Cocoyoc meeting?

[Rodriguez] We do not have a commission or commissioners for intellectuals, and we insisted on that point at the Cocoyoc meeting. The basic goal of the commission is to mobilize the people because people are the only ones who can develop the sense of struggle we need now. We not only need government actions; we need the action of the people, who should join in and support government actions. Ours is a double language, a language addressed to both governments and peoples.

[Suarez] The existence of the South Commission today is justified. However, being aware of the worsening situation, what type of concrete actions would it recommend?

[Rodriguez] We believe that the commission should use all available means to unite the South, which is thoroughly compartmentalized at present. First, Latin America and Africa are deeply divided, despite their common problems. This division or rather disagreement has been observed at international meetings. For historical reasons, Africa is closely linked to the EEC. Latin America wants to enter the EEC, but its entry is blocked by the African nations' status as associated countries within the EEC. We must overcome these disagreements. But the task we all have is the unity of Latin America and the countries of the Third World. This is what the commission is trying to achieve.

[Suarez] It is also said that the South-South Commission diagnoses many ills but gives few suggestions for remedies. When it prescribes changes, do the industrialized countries of the North follow suit?

[Rodriguez] We believe diagnoses are not the most important thing because there are many correct diagnoses. We know the origins of our problems, and we know that they are the international situation created by the capitalist countries and the unequal exchange terms that characterize our trade relations. That analysis may have different implications for different countries, but it is common to all three regions. It would be senseless for the South-South Commission to repeat the study done by the Brandt Commission on what goes on in the South. We must become aware of that; and Latin America has in the foreign debt a role that other countries do not have. We are the main debtors. We are made up of countries of (?average) development, above the average of Asian and African countries. We have a historical consciousness which is still a part of Africa's formation. There are no nations so completely formed in Africa as there are in Latin America. Therefore, we have all the conditions to become the leaders of the [words indistinct].

[Suarez] Metaphorically speaking, could one say that the Third World's economic situation is so grave that the patient is closer to death than to survival?

[Rodriguez] The patient is the people and the people never die. No one has ever issued a death certificate for an entire people. It is the governments, the leaders, the groups that lead, that die. It is the latter that can be replaced. The Third World is in such a sad condition that its relations with the industrialized countries have been altered. The industrialized countries have not yet realized the importance of a well-organized, coherent, and developing Third World for the survival of capitalism. The classics tell us: God makes losers blind. This is what is happening. It looks as if God is blinding the capitalist countries because they are unable to see the Third World's enormous potential. If the capitalist countries were to contribute to Third World development, they would be creating a market comprising millions of people and deficiencies would be corrected.

[Suarez] [Words indistinct] all this that among all the serious economic problems, the foreign debt continues to be the main problem.

[Rodriguez] As Fidel said at the foreign debt meeting, if we could solve the foreign debt problem, we could solve the problems of the Third World, because the foreign debt is not a cause; it is an effect. It is an effect, first, of bad Third World policies, of mistaken development concepts, but it is also an effect of unfair exchanges and the carelessness of bankers who lend money to earn interest, not to promote development. The foreign debt problem can be resolved, but if problems related to the new international economic situation are not satisfactorily resolved, within 15 or 20 years we would again be caught up in a fatal cycle.

[Suarez] According to the resolution approved by the South Commission in Kuala Lumpur, the South countries' foreign debt has become the main obstacle of its economic and social development in the current [words indistinct]. Between 1982 and 1987, the per capita investment of 17 highly indebted countries decreased by (?one-seventh), and the sub-Saharan countries' by one-fourth. In 1987, the per capita investment levels in Africa were less than half of the [words indistinct] of the sixties, and in Latin America [words indistinct] 1970. In the 5 years prior to 1982, the net transfer of financial resources to developing countries, through long-term loans, was $140 billion. However, during the following 5 years, there was a net decrease of $85 billion. As of 1980, the losses caused by the deterioration of trade relations of these countries has been on the average $80 billion annually.

[Suarez] Has President Fidel Castro's hypothesis on the foreign debt made any progress? Has the Cuban position moved closer to less radical positions or have those less radical positions moved closer to the Cuban one?

[Rodriguez] Fidel has said the foreign debt is unpayable, and experience has demonstrated this. Fidel's hypothesis has quietly gained ground, and it will continue to do so until it is recognized that his hypothesis is correct—which only silently recognized, and in private conversations. Have we moved closer to other countries? Tactically, yes we have moved closer. I can tell you, for example, that Cuba has signed all the SELA agreements stating that under the current conditions, the foreign debt is unpayable. We have not said the debt should not be paid under any condition but that under the current conditions the debt is unpayable—and this is already being admitted. This is being admitted often enough to us, because these are the present conditions, not the new international economic order we have been talking about.

[Suarez] Given the [words indistinct] and the varied conditions and commitments, can the creation of a club of debtors or a forum of debtors be achieved, as the orientation of the South Commission seems to be?

[Rodriguez] A long struggle will be necessary. We are in a hurry but not desperate. The situation is becoming increasingly difficult, and the governments and people have increasingly urgent needs. This will lead to discussions, and some link of unity will emerge out of those discussions. The idea is to coordinate positions. We know the situation in Mexico is different than Argentina's, Argentina's is different than Chile's, and Chile's is different than black Africa's, which is in a desperate situation with less relative development, but at the same time different than Asian countries. However, the difference between these situations does not prevent us from having a coordinated position to face the creditors and say to them: This is the Third World's position; these are the problems we have to discuss—let's talk. The foreign debt is a political problem, and if it is not resolved politically, it will not be resolved with a forced moratorium that would be worse for the bankers than a negotiated moratorium.

[Suarez] What has been the overall effect of some countries declaring a unilateral moratorium, such as Brazil? Was this or is this good or bad?

[Rodriguez] It had some good points, and for Brazil it had bad ones. Some points were good because they were an indispensable examples of combat. However, the moratorium cannot be declared in an isolated way. In an isolated manner, no country of the South can win against international banking and the group of countries that form the international capitalist community. This would be unrealistic. Therefore, to start finding solutions country by country, fighting country by country, is bad. As may be recalled, when Brazil enacted its moratorium, the United States softened its position toward Mexico and Argentina, reached agreements with them, leaving Brazil isolated and powerless. This is what we must avoid: the impotence of isolation, because separately they leave each of us powerless; then they hit us all at once.

[Suarez] Speaking of Cuba and its foreign debt, is it such an important factor that it affects its economy, or could it in some way halt or impair the path taken for the economic rectification and for the strengthening and progress of the general development of the country, welfare, and security of the people?

[Rodriguez] Our development is ensured through solid and permanent relations with socialist countries, which allow us to operate with about 90 percent of our economy, making it possible to carry out great development plans on the basis of adequate prices for our export products and a secure market for them. Right now, while all countries are going through difficulties, we are undertaking important projects such as thermoelectric plants, nickel factories, and oil refineries. In other words the bulk of our development is taking place because of our relations with those countries.

However, it is not enough for us to develop in terms of production. We must also have social development; without this there is no development. We have to have development aimed at the people. This is one of the things being discussed by the South Commission. We really want to develop, not grow, and to develop we must have development guided toward the people, with the structural reforms and a rise in the masses' standard of living. Here is where the foreign debt hits us all. About 10 percent of our foreign economic relations are with noncapitalist countries that are also nonsocialist and that supply us with raw materials we cannot obtain from socialist countries: food that complements the food received from socialist countries; and essential equipment we cannot obtain from socialist countries.

All of this is equal to approximately 10 percent. Without it, it is not the type of standard of living we can give our people. Therefore, the foreign debt also seriously affects us. Our relations with nonsocialist countries are not all directed toward the orderly, organized capitalist world. We maintain sound economic relations—although impaired by the foreign debt—with France, Great Britain, and the FRG, and very important relations with Japan. However, we also maintain important relations with three countries that I do not completely regard as part of the capitalist world. They do not include themselves in it, either, because they are more developed than others. [sentence as heard] I refer to Spain, Argentina, and Mexico. We began expanding our economic relations with Mexico, and it has become a most imporatant element in our economic thrust of the last few years.

[Suarez] Are the efforts being made now any different from those proposed at the nonaligned summit in Algiers in 1973 and the proposals the Nonaligned Movement submitted to the United Nations? Can they be regarded

as a failure, because the new international economic order has not been established and does not even appear as an antecedent in the charter on economic rights and duties of states?

[Rodriguez] The effects are not different, the problems persist, and to some extent this means the failure of a struggle that has been carried out with varying degrees of intensity since 1974. The formula being proposed is conciliation. However, what conciliation can there be between the executioner and the victim? There can be no conciliation unless the executioner stops using the axe, the guillotine, the gas chamber, or the electric chair. This is what we want. It is called the new economic order. It means leaving out all factors of exploitation.

[Suarez] Now, Carlos Rafael, I would like to ask you a question on Mexican-Cuban affairs. An action that has caused concern and that has been commented on here is the fact that, along with other governments and presidents, Cuban President Commander Fidel Castro sent a message to PRI candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari—who was not yet the president-elect according to the Mexican Constitution—congratulating him on his victory in the presidential elections and heralding the victory as a new phenomenon in Mexican history and democracy. This action was questioned because the entire electoral process had not legally ended. How can you explain this?

[Rodriguez] I must confess that although the question might be embarrassing, I feel it necessary, and I thank you for bringing up the matter, because during my brief stay in Mexico (in fact I have been here 4 days, of which I have spent 2 and ½ to 3 days in Cocoyoc), I have sensed that feeling among the public in some sectors. You, yourself, have proven that my feeling is justified. Perhaps inadvertently you mentioned how the president is proclaimed in Mexico. We have only followed our principles; we have not changed the principles that have guided our policy toward Mexico since the victory of the Cuban revolution.

A review of past practice will show that each time the Electoral College proclaimed a president-elect, he would receive a message from the Cuban president. We have done nothing different now. Waiting for the formality of the college's approval would have created a precedent. That would have been out of the ordinary, because actually on all previous occasions we had sent our message as soon as the president-elect was proclaimed by the highest electoral body.

We must note—and this is well known—that for the first time Mexico had two progressive candidates representing very important sectors of society. In the past, everything was easy, because choosing between the PAN [National Action Party] and PRI candidates was no problem at all. No one gave it any thought. However, as you said, a new situation prevails today. We must say that it is a known fact that in the same way as we show our respect, consideratinon, and friendship for Carlos Salinas de Gortari, we have respect for the Cardenas family, for Lazaro Cardenas' image in Mexico's political life, and for Cuauhtemoc, who has been and continues to be our friend. Consequently, we have done nothing different this time and could not have behaved otherwise toward the elections.

Looking at things objectively, we believe that this historical experience will be favorable for the Mexican people, that it will give more impetus to the Mexican people. We are glad of that. However, I must insist that Cuba has done nothing different this time compared to what it has done during the past 30 years of the Cuban revolution. It did what it had to do; otherwise, it would have set a precedent. It was really not a wrong action. We do not know why other governments did the same. We imagine that each one had its own reasons. I also want to say—and this should be known—that we have not received any guidelines from the Mexican Government concerning this type of statement. We did what we thought was right. We did so consciously, and we were aware of the consequences. However, we also knew of the justified reactions that would follow if, for the first time, we departed from past policy and waited for the formal proclamation by Congress, which we all know is controlled by a majority from the ruling party. It is not hard to guess what would happen.

[Suarez] At the Cocoyoc meeting, the South Commission has (?brought up) its (?previous) resolutions on the severity of the problem and above all of this foreign debt shackle which is gradually tightening. Among all of us, we must find a solution, because it could have affects on both the worlds of the South and the North. One could be the effect that the cooperation and the [words indistinct] of the industrialized world of the North could have as a result of an impetus on the development of our countries, with benefits to the North. The other could be a negative effect. The situation could become so difficult that those countries and dominant classes of the North, which today enjoy the benefits of the riches of the South, will no longer be able to eternally continue enjoying those riches. Finally, they could also lose this priviliged position and forcibly [words indistinct], causing social and political conflicts logically unrelated to such a serious situation and conditions. Something else is also very important. Just as the countries of the industrialized North, owners of riches and finances—although they do not completely own them—unite, even more united, through concerted actions, should be the countries which are victims of their historical executioners. For how long will this relationship of executioner and victim exist in international economic relations? The question has been asked. Everyone can have an answer, but one is foreseeable: disaster, which would be greater for us but which would eventually affect the rest. Neither with an axe, electrical chair, poison, nor gas, the world cannot be destroyed. It must get along on fair terms. Any other way, something much more serious could occur: the economic war could one day become a nuclear war, but we do not desire it. Good night.

Minister Meets With Seminar Participants
FL1709030388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2304 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and member of the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee, met this afternoon in the Palace of the Revolution with all the academicians and specialists from the United States, Latin America, and socialist countries who are participating in the seminar entitled, "Elections in the United States and Policies Toward Latin America," which is being sponsored by the Study Center on American and the Study Center on Latin America at the University of New Mexico in the United States.

This seminar, friends, is part of the scientific activities that the center is conducting to mark the 12th anniversary of its founding.

Commentary Defines Human Rights
FL1609203388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Tomorrow will be a year since Comrade Fidel stated before the 8th conference of the American Lawyers Association in Havana, that the consistent practice of human rights constitutes one of the most beautiful banners of our revolution. We recall this today because this concept, perhaps like few of them, synthesizes the decisive qualities of our socialist way of life. What does respect for human rights mean to us? It is the essential historical fact that the worker went from being exploited and humiliated to being a free man. He became a collective owner of what he creates with his hands and his intelligence, a person who makes decisions about his destiny as well as his country's. It is respect for human rights to turn work into something conscious and useful, into the highest value of society, and to enhance the worker's creative nature. It is respect for human rights to raise the individual's interest in the social results of production and to reduce the differences between manual and intellectual work; between city and countryside. It is respect for human rights to have made personal and social interests progressively converge, to have made possible the active and growing participation of the workers in the direction of society, to have developed the creative and social labor initiatives of all citizens, and to have consolidated a new moral characterized by a high collective, solidarity, and internationalist spirit.

It is respect for human rights to give to each according to his social contribution, to increase, and to continue to increase, the well being of all citizens, while assuring equality of rights and opportunities in regards to employment, health, education, sport, culture, rest, and social security. It is respect for human rights to have fomented the character of family life in an atmosphere of respect, mutual help, and common responsibility for the children. It is respect for human rights to have eliminated prostitution, gambling, drugs, and mendicity. It is to fight so that every citizen has a decent roof over their heads and a dignified life. It is to proclaim the right to development of the whole human race. It is to have a penal system in which almost 85 percent of the prisoners work and earn a wage, and are rehabilitated, are reeducated. It is to have a system in which their physical integrity is respected and in which they are able to go back to a socially useful life.

We Cubans are honored to be visited by guests to observe our system of rights. They will gain first hand knowledge of the reality of Cuba, which today can show, without any coverups, that its revolution is the most humane in the history of the world.

Castro Diaz-Balart Heads Delegation to IAEA
FL1909153788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1409 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The 32d General Conference of the IAEA has begun in Vienna, Austria. Almost all of the 113 members are attending. From the 20 Latin American member countries, 15 are attending, among them Cuba whose delegation is headed by Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart who is executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission. An extensive provisional agenda of 23 items will be approved by the participants of the meeting during its week-long duration. Likewise, there will be a meeting on the program for regional treaties and cooperatives and for the promotion of science and nuclear technologies in Latin America. Among the items to be examined will be the problem related to nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Juceplan President, Agriculture Minister Named
FL1909113688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] At the suggestion of the PCC Politburo, the Council of State has decided to name Antonio Rodriguez Maurel president of the Central Planning Board [Juceplan]. Rodriguez Maurel held the position of executive committee vice president of the Council of Ministers responsible for the sugar and agricultural sectors.

Comrade Adolfo Diaz Suarez, who held the position of agriculture minister up to the moment of this promotion, was appointed to replace Rodriguez Maurel as executive committee vice president of the Council of Ministers.

Comrade Carlos Perez Leon, who held the position of first vice minister of agriculture, was appointed agriculture minister to replacef Comrade Adolfo Diaz Suarez.

Consul General in Merida on Status of Fishermen

FL1709013288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2316 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Cuban consul general in Merida, Comrade Tomas Gonzalez Marcaida, tonight denied press reports on the fate of 17 Cuban ships and their 306 crew members. He said that they are all well protected at Isla Mujeres in Mexico.

From the time the fishermen ran into the strongest hurricane of the century, Hurricane Gilbert, we—as well as the Cuban authorities—knew the location of the ships and their physical condition, Gonzalez Marcaida said to "Exclusivo" [name of newscast].

In a telephone conversation from Merida, the Cuban consul said it is true that a Cuban ship did run aground in front of a luxury hotel in the Mexican seaside resort of Cancun in the state of Quintana Roo. However, he said, the crew members are all out of danger.

Since the hurricane arrived in the Gulf of Mexico,, the Mexican press reported that 17 ships were damaged, without communications, and lost. Gonzalez Marcaida clarified that the ships arrived at Abrego Port in Isla Mujeres, which is another tourist center in the southwestern region of Mexico which was one of the areas most affected by the super hurricane.

I repeat, all the Cuban fishermen from a total of 16 ships—36 [as heard] crew members—are today in good health in Mexico.

Port Congestion 'Considerably Reduced'

FL1609203788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] With the unloading and moving of only 207 containers on Thursday, workers fell short of their production goal for the day by 40 percent. There are now 6,480 units in the four ports that handle this type of cargo.

The Port of Mariel has reported equipment breakdowns. Havana Port continues to have problems in fulfilling its goal of unloading and transporting 200 containers a day. The Ports of Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba have not fulfilled their tasks due to lack of transportation.

More than 17,600 tons of cargo were unloaded yesterday while more than 23,000 tons were moved from the Mambisas terminals to internal economy.

Since the port support plan began at the end of August, port congestion has been considerably reduced, says Carlos Comesanas [Radio Reloj reporter].

Merchandise Moved Steadily

FL1909191088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The plans for the removal and unloading of merchandise on the national level were overfulfilled yesterday thanks to the efforts of all the workers that participated in the port-transport-economy network. This Sunday, in the national port system, 15,000 tons of merchandise were removed. At the same time, more than 18,700 tons of merchandise were unloaded. Presently there are 220,000 tons of merchandise in the warehouses. This makes it necessary to continue the emergency port plan at the same pace so that merchandise does not accumulate in the warehouses and the economy is not hurt. In spite of this situation, the Ports of Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba still present a problem since they have accumulated more than 40,000 tons of merchandise in their warehouses.

Fisheries Secretary Receives Mexican Secretary

FL2009024088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Havana City is hosting the Annual Cuban-Mexican Fisheries Commission. Lic Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary of Fisheries of Mexico, arrived today to attend the work sessions.

Ojeda Paullada was received at the Jose Marti International Airport by his Cuban counterpart, Jorge Fernandez Cuervo, with whom he spoke about the damages caused by hurricane Gilbert in northern Mexico. They also discussed the enormous work being done for a fast recuperation and reestablishment in the fishing industry. Ojeda Paullada also referred to the future of the fishing industry between the two countries, a subject to be discussed at the Annual Fisheries Commission

The meeting's agenda also included a review of the progress of the fishing agreements between the two countries.

Former Ecuadoran President Arrives for Visit

FL1509142588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Osvaldo Hurtado, former Ecuadoran president, arrived in Havana. He was received by Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez. Hurtado will remain in the country 2 weeks.

Severo Aquirre Leaves for Bulgaria, USSR

FL1609134388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government left for Bulgaria to participate in the 80th conference of the IPU.

Aguirre and the delegation accompanying him will later pay an exchange visit to the Soviet Union in response to an invitation made by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Culture Minister Arrives in Prague for Ceremony

FL1709020788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2356 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos arrived in Prague today to participate in Monday's ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Cuban Culture House in Prague. Deputy premier of the federal government, Matej Lucan; Culture Minister Milan Kymlicka, and Vice Foreign Minister Absen Baque welcomed the visitor at the Prague airport.

Armando Hart, who is also a member of the Politburo of the PCC Central Committee, will meet with leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and Government.

Meets Officials

FL1708182688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] During a meeting held in Prague between Matej Lucan, deputy premier of the CSSR, and Armando Hart, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, the development of cultural relations of the two countries was discussed.

Hart, who is also the Cuban minister of culture, arrived in Prague 2 days ago to attend Monday's ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Cuban Culture House in that capital.

Shortly after his arrival, Armando Hart met with his Czechoslovak counterpart, Milan Kymlicka with whom he discussed bilateral relations of the area he is in charge of, and the upcoming meeting for socialist countries culture ministers to be held in October in Havana.

The Cuban official will also meet with other leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and Government.

Farewell Ceremony Held

FL1909162688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and culture minister of Cuba, presided over the farewell ceremony in Prague last night for a delegation of 93 Czechoslovak youths that leave today for our country. The representatives of the CSSR will participate in the 5th Cuban-Czechoslovak youth meeting that will take place in Guantanamo Province. Hart is in Prague to participate in the celebration today of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Cuban Culture House in the Czechoslovak capital.

Journalism Protocol Signed With PRC

FL2009031188 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] An exchange agreement was signed today by the Journalist Associations of Cuba and the PRC. The document which will go into effect on 1 January 1989, was signed by Julio Garcia Ruiz, secretary general of the Union of Cuban Journalists and She Chi Wang a member of the (?secretariat) of the All-China Journalists Association. The exchange of delegations, of technical publications, and of mass media means will take place every 2 years.

Julio Garcia said the agreement shows the friendship and cooperation that exists between the two organizations; and She Chi Wang said the exchange will allow for a better understanding of Cuban and Chinese press workers organizations.

Spain Signs Several Credit Agreements

FL1709025488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Several credit agreements granted by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain to the Government of Cuba were signed today as part of the Development Aid Fund program.

The credit agreements, in excess of 31 million pesos, were signed by Miguel Muniz de las Cuevas, president of the Official Credit Institute of Spain, and Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban National Bank.

Shipping Accord Signed

FL1909205188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Cuban shipping enterprises and Astilleros Espanoles, S.A. signed in Madrid today a $60 million agreement for the acquisition of four freighters to carry refrigerated goods and two freighters to carry ammonia.

The document, in which out of three other European countries Spain gets first bids in the option to sell, was signed by Diocles Torralaba Gonzalez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and minister of Transportation, and Miguel Guillo, president of Astilleros Espanoles, S.A.

The Cuban minister and the Spanish (?official) also discussed the possible participation of the Spanish firm in a construction program of 19 ships for the Cuban fleet. According to official reports, five other countries with a strong shipping industry also showed great interest in the program.

Scientific-Technical Agreement Signed With India

FL1709023988 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and India today expanded their scientific-technical cooperation relations.

K.R. Narayanan, Indian minister of state for science and technology, and Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences signed the cooperation agreement in Havana.

Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, said that relations go back several years but they were formalized today in the scientific and technical areas. We hope that they will reach the same level as political and economic relations between our two countries, governments, and peoples, she said. This will benefit the well being of our people, stressed Simeon.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Seychelles

FL1609211088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1956 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The PCC and the Seychelles People's Progressive Front [SPPF] have agreed to expand and further develop ties in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

A cooperation agreement was renewed in Victoria, capital of Seychelles, for another 2 years by Ralph Adam and and Faure Chomon, members of the Central Committees of the SPPF and PCC, respectively.

Adam sent a message of friendship and recognition to our commander in chief, Fidel Castro.

The protocol includes the bilateral exchange of delegations from the two parties and youth and mass organizations. It also allows for a cooperation program in the areas of literature, culture, mass media, and others.

The Seychelles are an archipelago of 96 small islands in the Indian Ocean. It attained its independence from Great Britain in June 1976.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer on Excessive Currency Speculation

FL1909153188 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0922 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has said that there is excessive currency speculation in the Dominican Republic; this was made known in a report from the IDB. Nevertheless, the president said that he is confronting the situation with frequent demonetizations that is, taking money out of circulation.

Balaguer said he wanted more control over the foreign exchange market and the Central Bank had achieved that with its last measure. Nevertheless, he said the government will adopt any measures needed to strengthen the exchange situation.

Further Reportage

FL1909181988 Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] When asked by journalists about the energy crisis that affects the country—lengthy blackouts occur daily—President Joaquin Balaguer called on citizens to be patient.

Speaking in the community of (Poesias) in San Juan de la Maguana, the president said that the speculation problem is as serious as the energy crisis. Balaguer said that speculation is being confronted with every measure available.

In reference to the scourges of speculation and drug trafficking, he said that there is a lot of greed among sectors he described as small [word indistinct] which engage in commerce. Balaguer said that it is not easy to fight these problems but he said he was confident that it could be done. He stressed that his government will be successful in reducing the cost of living, and that is why he was asking the country to trust its social (?measures).

Haiti

Avril Addresses Nation, Newly Installed Cabinet

FL1909213188 Port-au-Prince Domestic Service in French 1859 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Speech by Prosper Avril, head of the military government, delivered at ceremony in the Diplomatic Hall of the National Palace in Port-au-Prince to install new cabinet—live]

[Text] Gentlemen, upon installing you as ministers this morning, I mean to immediately stress the character of patriotic service that is an intrinsic part of your taking office and that is rendered even more imperative by the decisive moments we are at present living.

Haiti is in crisis, its flesh deeply wounded, if not its vital organs. These last few years and months have been characterized by jolts and convulsions to the point where it is in a particularly difficult national and international context of which today we are taking over. We have a people who are suffering and carrying a heavy load, a people who are making demands, a people who expect us to get to work, right away, to improve their lot. These people are waiting—and legitimately so—for us to prove to them, through our actions, that we truly wish and are able to serve their cause, with security and order reestablished, in an impartial manner, and within the framework of permanent dialogue with them.

The country is in crisis, I said. It is up to us to manage this crisis in such a manner as to pull Haiti out of it and break the asphyxiating cycle. This is possible, because our people, whose glorious feats have gone down in history, can still mobilize in order to forge their destiny, if we are able to define with the people the parameters of a project in which the Haitian people recognize themselves.

Neither, despite the Haitian people, nor against them can we make these people happy. It is, rather, together with these people that we will prove to ourselves and to the world that stagnation, not to say retrogression, is not necessarily Haiti's fate.

Servants of the people and of the national interest, upright and dynamic workers in a sector of public life, men of dialogue but also men who are decisive and firm—that is, in a nutshell, what a minister of this government must be like. The ministerial cabinet must be considered a relay team, an indispensable transition toward the implantation of democracy, which is the final objective of the military government. The ministers must work at modernizing and making more rational our administrative structures, with the sole goal of providing quality services to the different groups of people in Haiti.

Lastly, the ministers will take care to rise above party and factional rivalries, in order to bring about a national reconciliation, which is indispensable for the reconstruction of this devastated, mutilated, degraded country.

This cabinet does not represent any particular party or any particular group. It considers itself the manager of public affairs, with a view to the definitive establishment of democracy.

The task is immense and cannot wait. Let us begin with no further waste of time. We are making it a point of honor to have the range of services provided to the community constitute the true foundations of our legitimacy.

Gentlemen, on this day, a man of good will puts out his hand to other men of good will. A chain of solidarity must be absolutely established—an ever-lengthening chain that becomes ever stronger—in order that Haiti may live and progress. Thank you. [applause]

PA19092250 [Editorial Report] Paris AFP in Spanish at 2208 GMT on 19 September 1988 releases a list of the new Haitian cabinet members:

"Education, Youth, and Sports	Remy Zamor
Justice	Gilbert Austin
Public Works, Transport, and Communications	Franck Paultre
Economy and Finance	Leonce Thelusma
Social Affairs	Louis Arnault Guerrier
Public Health and Population	Serge Pinthro
Interior and National Defense	Colonel Carl Dorsainville
Information and Coordination	Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development	Frederic Agenor
Foreign Affairs	Serge Elie Charles
Commerce	Gerard Louisias"

New Authorities Meeting With Opposition

FL1909183688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] We have learned (?from) a well-informed (?source) that meetings have been held between the new Haitian authorities and several members of the opposition (?and) Haitian political leaders.

This news thus serves as confirmation for the announcement of a political dialogue, as General Avril announced yesterday, Sunday.

Thus, several members of the opposition and several Haitian political leaders have already met with the new Haitian authorities, in order to start the country rolling.

ANOP Rejects Dialogue Offer

FL1909165688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] According to a press release from ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations], the pressure exerted by the popular masses over the last week has forced the Americans to change the driver of the death train. Namphy, one of the murderous chiefs, has been forced to flee.

ANOP is not forgetting all the commotion the masses have been making over these chiefs since 7 February, (?when they were in) the provisional CNG [National Government Council]. That is why ANOP does not believe in the demagogic words of dialogue they are now pronouncing.

ANOP is pointing the finger at everyone who is pretending to have forgotten the massacres of 29 November, Martissant, and Fort Dimanche, in order to go sit down and talk so there can be a fraudulent election.

ANOP says: We, the popular masses, are going to continue to pursue our rights. Thus, as of this day, we refuse to allow section chiefs to monitor our meetings. We say down with the eavesdropping projects, down with the surveillance and informants service, and down with detectives.

We are going to continue to hold meetings and to rise up properly. ANOP is going to continue to set up people's security brigades so the citizenry can defend itself from the criminals. ANOP is going to continue to form neighborhood committees and women's associations, so that a true democracy can be established in Haiti.

Leaders Reaction Noted

PA1909162188 Paris AFP in Spanish 1415 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Sep (AFP)—The main Haitian political parties and leaders today reacted favorably to the coup d'etat staged by sergeants and the rank and file of the Haitian Presidential Guard who on Sunday overthrew General Henri Namphy and placed General Prosper Avril in power.

In a statement to Radio Antilles Internationales, Gerard Gourgue, leader of the National Front for Concerted Action [Frente Nacional de Concertacion] (FNC, center leftist), said that Avril seems to be "an open person," to whom a vote of confidence and some time must be given.

"We are willing to talk to anyone who has good faith and goodwill," Gourgue added. "If Gen Avril had been in charge of the military on 7 February 1986 (the day on which the Duvalier regime was overthrown), Haiti would not be in such a poor situation today," Gourgue said.

Another political leader, Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the National Development Movement (MDN, centrist), also reacted favorably to the coup d'etat, calling for new presidential elections and the reinstatement, with some amendments, of the 1987 Constitution abolished by Gen Namphy.

Max Bourjolly, speaking on behalf of the United Party of Haitian Communists (PUCH), was the first to express his satisfaction over the military coup d'etat.

Of the four top opposition leaders, the only one who categorically denied "any dialogue whatsoever" with Gen Avril was Pastor Silvio Claude, president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party (PDCH), who suggested that the head of the Court of Appeals be immediately appointed as the nation's civilian president.

This morning, Port-au-Prince appeared calm and the entire country looked like it did during better times. Most of the people seemed to be confidently awaiting the imminent announcement of the cabinet ministers, most of whom—according to reliable sources—will be civilians.

On Sunday morning, five people were killed. Two of the victims, it would seem, were followers of Franck Romain, former mayor of Port-au-Prince, and they may have participated in the 11 September attack on the St. Jean Bosco Church, during which 24 people were killed and 74 wounded. Mobs burned the two bodies.

According to medical sources cited on Radio Haiti-Inter, 21 people were treated at hospitals, most of them for gunshot wounds sustained during Sunday's shootout. Two others had knife wounds.

Former Mayor Romain, widely accused of masterminding the massacre at the St. Jean Bosco Church, sought refuge for himself and his family at the Dominican Embassy, where Gen Namphy's relatives and close friends are also staying.

Col Paul Still Head of Dessalines Barracks

FL1909184888 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, the commander of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Intervention Batallion, has not been appointed to any other post. According to well-informed sources in Port-au-Prince, he remains the commander of this unit.

The commander in chief of the Army is still General Carl Michel Nicolas, and his assistant is still General Wilthan Lherrison.

This is the information we have for you regarding Col Jean-Claude Paul, who remains the commander of the Dessalines Barracks. General Carl Michel Nicolas is still commander in chief of the Army, and his assistant is still General Wilthan Lherisson.

This is information for you that comes from an AFP cable.

Soldier Tells of Feelings About 'Higher-Ups'

FL1909190888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network Creole 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Among the people we are contacting, we got in touch with a military garrison this morning located in the center of town, where a citizen who told us he was just a soldier talked to us over the phone. This soldier told us that all the crooked stuff going on is not coming from them. It is coming from the higher-ups. It is the higher-ups who are tolerating and doing and undoing. According to this soldier, it is these higher-ups who are preventing enlisted men like himself and young officers from rising because these higher-ups are sticking together.

The majority of the higher-ups—not all of them, he said, but most of them—have many common interests and they therefore all hang together to prevent any lower-ranking officer or any enlisted man from advancing. And, as long as the majority of these higher-ups are still on the scene, nothing can change for the young officers, the enlisted men, and the Haitian people in general, the enlisted men says.

The enlisted men say that there is at present a dawning of awareness among the enlisted men because certain enlisted men—very few of them—have collaborated with these higher-ups, who used to send them out to do things, just like they used to find marginal individuals in other places, such as among the tontons macoutes, to send out to commit acts of violence here and there.

However, they say, there is at present among the enlisted men a dawning of awareness taking place; the things that used to go on will no longer be able to go on.

In passing, he stressed that there was something he would never get over: the murder of Yves Volel in front of the police station in the heart of Port-au-Prince. He said that he would never forget that. As regards what happened Saturday, what happened Saturday—and he repeated this, said it twice—he added that if these men do not get a grip on themselves, that if they think they are going to be able to act like their predecessors, well, then nobody has seen anything yet!

That was a conversation we had this morning with an individual who said he was an enlisted man. We called him, and he identified himself as an enlisted man. That is what he said this morning.

He said that all the crooked stuff taking place comes from certain bigshots, who are tolerating a number of violent acts because they are not willing to lose, (?to give up), certain privileges, such as big cars, big houses, millions of dollars, and also lots of women.

Romain Followers Entrenched, Causing Panic
FL1909161988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] We have just learned—that right now, as we speak, there is a team of 12 men on the plain of Cul de Sac, in the Duvivier area, lower Duvivier, who are apparently collaborators of the 11 September crime [in St. Jean Bosco Church]. Some of them are detectives, some of them are tonton macoutes, and some of them are collaborators, it is said, of Franck Romain [Port-au-Prince mayor who is said to have fled country].

These men are sowing fear in Duvivier this morning. Apparently there is a total of 12 men and it looks as if they have received orders not to return the weapons they had been issued. So these men are entrenched down there in Duvivier. They say they are not going to hand over the weapons. The population is reacting wildly. There was a real panic a few minutes ago.

Thus, after the military coup d'etat, during which they said they were disgusted with what had been going on, it looks as if the same type of action is still going on because the men who had been armed in Duvivier have entrenched themselves in their position, saying they will not return the weapons. It seems these men participated in the 11 September actions and in actions prior to 11 September.

Soccer 'War' Between Towns; Army Intervenes
FL1609231188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The population of Port-de-Paix and that of Saint Louis du Nord are fighting, following a soccer game held yesterday afternoon. Five people have been hurt, and the forces of order have intervened in the matter. Our correspondent in Port-de-Paix will give us details.

[Correspondent Jean Wilson] Green clad Haitian Army soldiers have occupied several poor sections of Port-de-Paix in order to calm the population, especially in the (Lot Bo Pon) and (Nan Palan) sections, where people have not slept since last night. The population has been waiting for the Saint Louis du Nord buses to leave for Port-au-Prince, in order to attack them.

This war broke out between Saint Louis du Nord and Port-de-Paix yesterday on Saint Louis's soccer field, where the two towns were to play against each other in the final qualifying match to see who would play in Port-au-Prince. However, not even the first half of the match was fully played because so many fights broke out among the players and fans of both sides. [passage omitted]

Since then, the residents of the two towns have declared war on each other, and the police intervened and took away from them all kinds of weapons: knives, jack knives [words indistinct] revolvers, clubs, and rocks.

Some 500 Port-de-Paix fans had to walk the 5 km back to Port-de-Paix because the drivers from Saint Louis did not want to go there. All the people on foot were manhandled by the residents of Saint Louis du Nord, who threw rocks at them. Five people are in the hospital in Port-de-Paix and several others (?have fractures).

That is why this morning, people from (Lot Bo Pon) in Port-de-Paix threw rocks at [name of bus indistinct], a bus from Saint Louis du Nord that was going to Port-au-Prince. A driver from Port-de-Paix told us that in Saint Louis du Nord too, there is a group of people watching for drivers from Port-de-Paix. [passage omitted]

This affair is disrupting traffic between Port-de-Paix and Saint Louis du Nord today. No vehicle from Saint Louis is running the risk of traveling the road, except for the drivers from (La Pointe). Each time a bus from Saint Louis du Nord leaves for Port-au-Prince, the Haitian Army escorts it way far out of town. Meanwhile, the Army has the situation in hand in Port-de-Paix. They are

constantly patrolling up and down the poor sections of (Lot Bo Pon) and (Nan Palan), where the people from Saint Louis might pass in order to enter or leave the town of Port-de-Paix.

Many observers are holding the Haitian Soccer Federation responsible for these incidents because it sent a referee who was not competent to officiate an important qualifying match such as this. Observers are asking the pertinent Haitian authorities to quickly intervene so that these two neighboring towns, Port-de-Paix and Saint Louis du Nord, will not cause another massacre in the northwest over a soccer game.

This is Jean Wilson, Radio Soleil, Port-de-Paix.

Jamaica

Caricom Countries Provide Hurricane Relief

FL1909175988 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Jamaica is receiving significant assistance from Caricom-member countries as restoration efforts continue following Hurricane Gilbert.

Bahamas Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has (?talked with) Prime Minister Seaga at Jamaica House on the weekend after Mr Pindling arrived with a planeload of relief supplies.

The Bahamas prime minister also presented a check of $U.S. 50,000 from the Government and people of the Bahamas through Jamaica's emergency relief efforts.

Sir Lynden was briefed on the damage done to the Jamaican economy.

Immediately following this, Mr Seaga held talks with a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago led by Industry and Commerce Minister Senator Ken Gordon.

Senator Gordon offered the services of his country in coordinating disaster relief originating in the eastern and southern Caribbean. He also said that a study has begun to ascertain how the airline, BWIA, can help by consolidating the lifting of relief cargo and discussed plans to send detachments from the defense forces of Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana to Jamaica. The soldiers would help restore power lines which have been extensively damaged across the island.

Colonel (Norris Baldwin Central) of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force, who accompanied Senator Gordon on the visit, is to hold talks with the chief of staff of the JDF [Jamaica Defense Force] to coordinate the exercise.

Many Caribbean countries have come to Jamaica's assistance by donating relief supplies and money since Hurricane Gilbert struck a week ago.

In the meantime, eight containers of supplies left Port-of-Spain on the weekend for Jamaica. A number of packages of relief supplies from the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross have already arrived in the island.

St Lucia

Odlum Warns About Intervention in Haiti

FL1909204388 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Sept 19, CANA—The leader of the small left wing Progressive Labour Party (PLP) here George Odlum, has described Haiti's latest coup as perhaps the most serious of all to have taken place in the impoverished Caribbean country, but has ruled out military intervention as a solution to the problem.

In a reaction to the weekend overthrow of President Henri Namphy by General Prosper Avril, Odlum said it was clear that the new regime was bent on re-establishing the dictatorial Duvalier-type regime even more seriously than it was established before. "This is very serious because it means that the will of the Haitian people continues to be subverted," Odlum said. "At this stage we see what looks like the most serious effort to establish the Duvalier regime in Haiti, and because of that Caribbean people should be very concerned about this development," he added.

He said that Caribbean nations should more than ever before do everything possible to re-establish sanity in Haiti and allow the voice of the people to come through. "We should not allow another dictatorial regime to superimpose itself on the will of the Haitian people." Odlum, a former deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, said that despite all that had taken place there, military intervention was still a difficult proposition in Haiti.

"The principle of intervention must be wrong for the Caribbean. If we allow a U.S.-inspired intervention we would have to accept the position that an intervention into any other sovereign territory is justifiable...it must be a diplomatic assault..."

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Expresses Concern Over Haiti

FL1909200988 Bridgetown CANA in English 1931 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 19, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago said on Monday that it was greatly dismayed to hear that there had been another military coup in Haiti. In a brief statement, issued in the absence

of External Affairs Ministry Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, the ministry called on the international community to do whatever possible to promote the development of democracy in that country.

Basdeo is currently in Europe with Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. The statement made no reference to Trinidad and Tobago's position that Haiti, under the leadership of General Henri Namphy, should have been isolated by the Caribbean Community. Namphy, who had ousted elected leader, Leslie Manigat, was himself thrown out of office by former colleague, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril on Sunday.

"The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has learnt with great dismay of yet another military coup in Haiti on Sunday 18th September 1988," the external Affairs statement said. "The Government of Trinidad and Tobago hopes that the recent wave of violence would not be allowed to continue and calls upon the International Community, particularly those countries which have influence in Haiti, to do whatever is necessary to promote the development of democracy in that country. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to reiterate its solidarity with the people of Haiti in their desire for peace, progress and human dignity," the statement said.

De la Madrid on Fishing Industry Positive Trend
PA1909185788 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 17 Sep 88 p 3

[Article by Octavio Ochoa: "President de la Madrid Says Fishing Sector Will Render a Good Balance Sheet"]

[Excerpts] President Miguel de la Madrid, speaking yesterday at a working meeting, said that the fisheries sector will present "a good balance sheet" to the nation. At the meeting, it was confirmed that over the past 6 years, the fisheries sector achieved a favorable trade balance of $2.814 billion, consumption was 12 to 14.3 kg per capita, and the average annual growth rate was 8 percent, which is higher than the country's average overall growth rate.

Fisheries Secretary Pedro Ojeda Paullada, accompanied by ranking Fisheries Secretariat officials, gave a detailed report on the achievements made in the fisheries sector, outstanding among which is that from 1983 to date, Mexico has exported 70,000 tons of sea products—especially shrimp, seaweed, and tuna—for $2.874 billion, in contrast to the 63,000 tons imported at a cost of $60 million.

Fishing industry officials also reported that during this period, 44,164 new jobs were created and cooperatives were allowed to join in all fishing operations from the capture of the fish to the sale of fish products. [passage omitted]

Ojeda Paullada gave assurances that at present the country has the potential to produce 2 billion tons of sea products, of which 1.5 billion are already being exploited. [passage omitted]

Other speakers at the event included Fernando Estrada Servin, director of the Mexican Fishing Products [Productos Pesqueros Mexicanos] Corporation, who reported that over the past 6 years, bases were established for the sector's "final phase of restructuring," which includes the sale of shares from 13 companies, the liquidation of 8, and the reorganization of another 3 companies. [passage omitted]

Venezuelan Minister on C. A. Peace Process
FL1909093088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2243 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Mexico, 16 September (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo said today that the present situation in Central American countries halts the peace process of the region.

Interviewed at Mexico City's airport before returning to his country, the Venezuelan minister said his visit to Mexico was important because it helped to promote some programs beneficial for both countries which needed to be reactivated.

He commented on the Contadora Group and said it had fulfilled each of the phases for which it was responsible and established the political structure for Central American countries to achieve peace. The diplomat added that the group supports the actions which Central American countries carry out but it does not participate. Since the Esquipulas II agreement was reached, the nations in conflict assumed responsibility for finding a negotiated political solution. The minister also said the delay of the Esquipulas II process is the concern of all countries. However, he noted that the Contadora Group would participate whenever requested to do so.

On another subject, he said that the plans and projects signed between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Jaime Lusinchi for science and technology, and transportation and commerce, will be promoted by both countries.

El Salvador

Col Vargas on Transportation, 'Walker' Plan

PA1909214888 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Interview with Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded, monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Vargas] ...in cooperation with the Salvadoran people and private enterprise, bus service in the capital is operating. [passage omitted] We are also providing total security at the end of bus lines and at the terminals of different bus owners. We want to tell the Salvadoran people that private enterprise and various types of businessmen, such as cooperatives, are joining the work. We are gradually normalizing the situation. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Colonel Vargas, the economy minister yesterday talked about militarizing the public transportation system. Has this been considered; that is, pressuring businessmen to keep their buses operating?

[Vargas] This matter is strictly up to the executive branch's General Transportation Directorate. The Armed Forces only enforce decrees, agreements, and instructions that the executive branch issues. We think freedom, tranquillity, and the people's rights must be respected. However, without having to take this action, the businessmen have agreed to work. They are being provided the necessary security. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How many soldiers are involved in the "Walker" plan, which, as you stated, is being implemented on land and in the air throughout the country?

[Vargas] We only have variations here. That is, there are only changes in the centers of balance. The Armed Forces are deploying 65 percent of their forces throughout the country. In this respect, we are now changing or transferring resources to the "Walker" plan. That means we are deploying about 43,500 men—this is an approximate figure. However, as the country's security concerns increase, we are not only working on the "Walker" plan. We have operations of various importance. We have the "Kilowatt" plan for transmission lines, we have production areas and security complexes like RASA [Autonomous Refinery of El Salvador] and CEPA [Autonomous Executive Port Commission], etc. In this respect, we are changing the center of balance. We are reducing personnel in those sectors that we feel are not of top priority and transferring them elsewhere. However, we always keep an average of 43,500 men deployed throughout the country. We can say that 33 percent of those men are currently working on the "Walker" plan throughout the country. [passage omitted]

More Arrested University Students Released

PA2009005488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2133 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Ten of the remaining 14 Salvadoran university students who were arrested when the police broke up a demonstration on 13 September were released today because there were no grounds for keeping them in custody. The demonstration resulted in the death of a soldier and the arrest of more than 200 students.

It was officially reported that the remaining four students are being held pending an investigation to determine whether or not they belong to illegal organizations.

University Director Luis Argueta Antillon reported that the students had been severely beaten and at least one of the students required emergency medical treatment. Argueta added that officials tried to bribe the students to state that university officials have links to the Salvadoran rebels by offering them money, passports, visas, and security for their families.

Guatemala

4 Guerrillas Surrender; Gramajo Urges Peace

PA1909205388 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Four high-ranking members of guerrilla organizations operating in Guatemala have surrendered to the Army. According to reports on Sunday, the guerrillas will be granted amnesty. Military sources report that on Monday the Army plans to present the four guerrilla commanders to the media.

Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo has reiterated his appeal to the guerrillas to give up their weapons and to join in national life:

[Begin Gramajo recording] We are making all the necessary efforts to attain peace in Guatemala. This is our main goal: to keep peace in the entire country. This is why we are calling on terrorist groups to give up their weapons and, if they have an ideology that they believe could be better for Guatemala, to express their views within the democratic framework. The armed clandestine groups can now take the initiative for peace. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Government-Contra Talks Held in Guatemala

Obando To Send Alternate

PA1909135588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo announced at a news conference that Abelardo Mata, auxiliary bishop of Managua, will represent him at a meeting today in

Guatemala, where continued talks between the constitutional Nicaraguan Government and the counterrevolutionary leadership will be planned. Bishop Mata will act as a witness, the position granted to Cardinal Obando y Bravo as a member of the Sapoa agreements' Verification Commission.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo said that flexibility should prevail on both sides so that a date and place for a high-level meeting between the Nicaraguan Government and the so-called Resistance can be established. He said that upon returning from a recent visit to Italy, he took advantage of a stopover in Miami to recommend to the contras, as a pastor, that to sit at the negotiating table is a good way to achieve peace. Obando y Bravo also said that the National Reconciliation Commission will meet this week to evaluate the mission carried out by Mauricio Diaz and Erick Ramirez for the release of individuals kidnapped by the counterrevolutionaries.

In his homily on Sunday, Cardinal Obando y Bravo attempted to justify his refusal to meet with the mothers of individuals kidnapped by the contras. He did this by attacking the media. As is well known, the mothers of more than 6,000 kidnapped individuals send delegations to the curia on Thursdays to demand that the cardinal intercede for their relatives' release. On Thursday, 15 September, mothers from Region 4 found the curia's doors closed, but they demanded that the curia's doors and those of the cardinal's heart open in response to their grief.

In his homily, the prelate accused journalists of wasting rivers of ink on half truths, describing this alleged attitude as a sin of the flesh. They say, the cardinal argued, that I have never met with the mothers. I have met with the mothers personally and through my representatives, he said, but he did not mention whose mothers he met with. During his homily, he also said that we Nicaraguans are killing each other and that this is a sin. He referred to Jesus Christ's crucifixion as a similar sin.

Radio Sandino Views Talks

PA1909211688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Sandinist government and contra representatives will meet this afternoon in Guatemala City to discuss the possibilities of renewing peace negotiations. The meeting is to be held in a Guatemala City hotel where special surveillance and strict security measures are being enforced.

The Sandinist government delegation is headed by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and the mercenaries' delegation is comprised of Bosco Matamoros, Roberto Ferrey, and Rene Herrera. The meeting has been endorsed by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo to further the attainment of peace in Nicaragua.

The last contra-Sandinist talks, which were held in Managua, were suspended on 7 June, and the parties have not met since. The contras and Sandinists have met twice in Guatemala. Cardinal Obando y Bravo was the mediator during their first talks in Guatemala City a few months ago, but the negotiations ended in failure.

Talks Begin

PA1909180188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and Sandinist government delegations are meeting today in Guatemala City in a round of talks to set the date, agenda, and site of future negotiations to achieve peace in Nicaragua.

Contra leaders Roberto Ferrey, Bosco noros, and Rene Herrera are participating in the meeting. The Sandinist regime is represented by Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Ricardo Zambrana Diaz, and advisers Octavio Calderon and Paul Reichler, a U.S. citizen.

According to Ferrey, a member of the RN Directorate, one of the conditions that the contras will propose to the Sandinist government—headed by Commander Daniel Ortega—for the resumption of the peace negotiations is the release of 46 opposition members arrested in July after participating in a demonstration in the Nicaraguan town of Nandaime. Ferrey said that the RN decided to agree to participate in the meeting called by Ortega "so that it could not be said that we are not seeking a solution to Nicaragua's problems."

Today's meeting is the second encounter between contras and Sandinists in Guatemala. The first meeting was held in February. On that occasion, the talks were suspended when no agreement was reached on a timetable for the democratization process in Nicaragua.

Government Willing To Talk

PA1909210488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2015 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said in the Guatemalan capital today: "We are prepared to continue negotiations with the counterrevolutionaries to achieve a permanent cease-fire."

Tinoco heads the Sandinist government delegation that began talks today with a Nicaraguan Resistance delegation to pave the way for a meeting "at the highest level."

The Nicaraguan vice minister called for the "continuation of the Sapoa negotiations, which had already achieved a great deal of progress," because 22 of the 32 points under discussion have been approved.

However, he said emphatically that the negotiations between the contras and his government "must be in Managua, and we will try to convince them of this, because reasonable conditions exist."

The RN delegation is made up of Roberto Ferrey, Bosco Matamoros, and Rene Herrera.

"We hope to find a willingness to negotiate on the part of the contras, because we do not know if this is a maneuver to influence the vote at the end of this month in the U.S. Congress to obtain military aid," Tinoco said.

The vice foreign minister emphasized that the Managua government is prepared to talk "at the highest level" on any date, "the sooner the better," although he said the talks should be in Nicaragua because "they have to be carried out seriously, rather than in trips to beach resorts."

Tinoco said it "is necessary" to advance at this time toward "an end to offensive operations as a whole to see if there is a willingness to contribute to the spirit and climate of negotiations," as well as to "clarify the functions of the Verification Commission."

Tinoco also said "we have talked with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Cardinal (Miguel) Obando y Bravo so they will verify a truce for another 2 months or more," adding that there are mechanisms and $10 million to do so.

The Nicaraguan vice foreign minister said U.S. assistance to irregular groups such as the "contras" would be "the negation of the Esquipulas II peace agreements," although the U.S. Government "wants to create all sorts of problems," particularly along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Tinoco said that in that area the "contras" and the Honduran Army "could very well get confused and this might lead to some clashes."

The vice foreign minister said the Honduran Government has agreed that there are some 5,000 "contras" in El Pariaso, Honduras, and another 1,000 "dispersed in groups inside Nicaraguan territory."

On the other hand, Victor Hugo Tinoco said that the 44 political opponents arrested on 10 July in Nandaime will not be released by the Sandinist government "because they are going to be brought to trial for the disturbances."

The Nicaraguan vice foreign minister emphasized that "the issue of the 66 Sandinists captured by the contras and who are in Honduras" will possibly be discussed during today's "preparatory" negotiations and tomorrow, although he added that "we have a list of approximately 900 prisoners."

Talks End; No Agreement

PA2009021888 Paris AFP in Spanish 0143 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Sep (AFP)—Representatives from the Sandinist government and the Nicaraguan contras concluded their meeting here tonight without reaching any specific agreements on resuming cease-fire negotiations in Nicaragua. Nicaraguan Resistance spokesman Bosco Matamoros said "some points were clarified, but actually the same problems persist." Meanwhile, Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, head of the Sandinist delegation, said the meeting "was useful," but he admitted there are differences on various aspects.

The rebels proposed a high-level meeting be held on 26, 27, or 28 September in Guatemala, Costa Rica, or the Dominican Republic, but the Sandinists rejected this possibility and insisted that the meeting should be held in Managua.

Panama

General Strike Under Way With 'Mixed Results'

PA1909161488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Amid great tension and with most schools and universities closed, today's general strike in Panama City began with mixed results. The strike was called by the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (FENASEP) and other trade unions. The decrease in traffic all over Panama City this morning was very noticeable, but no incidents have been reported up to this moment (0900 local—1400 GMT).

The police have taken over or are keeping under guard strategic installations such as the electric company and the nearby port of Balboa, ACAN-EFE correspondents were able to confirm while driving through the city. At several offices such as the Post Office and the Finance Ministry, employees reported to work but are doing nothing. In other offices such as the National Welfare Lottery, activity is relatively normal.

A spokesman for the Institute of Water Resources and Electrification (IRHE) union, one of the most combative labor unions, told ACAN-EFE that the installations of that state-run enterprise and the union's main office "were surrounded at dawn" by the Defense Forces. The spokesman said that only one-third of IRHE's workers reported to work and added that no power cuts are planned. [passage omitted]

FDP Controls Ports

PA2009003488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2320 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] A communique issued by the National Port Authority states that given the threats from the Balboa port workers labor union and Vacamonte port workers,

who said they would prevent Balboa and Vacamonte port officials access to the port facilities; given the indefinite paralyzation of services rendered by those facilities; and given that the [National Port Authority's] general directorate is fully authorized by the executive branch to act in coordination with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] command and staff—according to the executive decree that declares our national ports as part of our national security and authorizes the FDP to offer assistance and cooperation to maintain public order in those installations—as of this morning, FDP naval and infantry units are supplying the appropriate protection to the Balboa port facilities, and the Port Police are doing likewise in Vacamonte port.

Anti-Noriega 'Political-Military Organization'
PA2009014988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0047 GMT 20 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The so-called "16 March Active Movement" (A16M) [Movimiento Activo 16 de Marzo], a political-military organization, today announced, through a communique delivered to ACAN-EFE, its creation in Panama.

In this communique, which is labeled No 1 and dated 19 September, the so-called A16M announces that it will take "political and armed" measures against General Noriega's regime, which the new organization calls a "military dictatorship."

The communique notes that the A16M is composed "of patriotic Panamanian civilians and military men."

ACAN-EFE was informed of the communique through an anonymous call. The caller said the communique had been placed in the washroom of a public building. ACAN-EFE editors went to the site and found the document.

A high-ranking military source consulted by ACAN-EFE said he knew nothing about the document and he "does not believe at all" in the alleged creation of the political-military group "since no terrorist action that could be attributed to such a group has taken place." According to the same military source, who asked not to be identified, "the document is part of a psychological operation aimed at creating unrest among the people."

The so-called A16M military command that has claimed credit for issuing the communique announces in the document that it has ordered the mobilization of "all the military and civilian units" of the A16M and calls on "all honest officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops" of Panama to join the group, which it calls "the people's liberation army."

The document, which was printed on low-quality photocopy paper, calls on the civilian population "to refuse to collaborate" with Gen Noriega's regime.

This is the first time since the beginning of the political crisis in Panama on 6 June 1987 that a group has announced its decision to resort to an armed struggle against the regime.

Contrary to other countries in the region, Panama has had no recent periods of guerrilla or terrorist activity, and for this reason observers have never given credence to some U.S. media reports about the possibility of armed opposition groups being created in Panama.

Argentina

Caputo on UN Assembly Presidential Election

PY1909180388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1439 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said that if he were elected president of the 43d UN General Assembly, it would place Argentina in an active position within world diplomacy. In reply to a question, Caputo said Argentina has not modified its position regarding Chile and Paraguay in order to obtain their support in tomorrow's voting session. At least I will remain consistent, the minister said.

Caputo thus categorically denied rumors about an alleged change in the Argentine attitude toward these countries. He said that such a possibility could only be considered by people whose moral values can be changed by votes. It is a matter of principles; it is typical of people who in the past held positions of responsibility in Argentina and who changed their principles for votes, Caputo said. I think that our 5 years in government demonstrates how we defend our position, sometimes with passion or force, but at least we remain consistent, he added.

Caputo said the international situation will be the main theme of the 43d UN General Assembly, which will begin tomorrow. Disarmament and resolution of important regional conflicts, among other issues, mean this assembly is being held at one of the best moments since the end of the World War II.

Within this context and situation, the presidency of the 43d UN General Assembly is an essential position. It is very important for the international community. Argentina, once an outcast country, isolated from the international community, is now emerging at the center of this whole debate.

He also said the UN General Assembly assigns certain specific roles to the president. We must not forget that the United Nations is not organized like our own congress system, but after the Anglo-Saxon system, thus granting the president special powers to interpret the matters under discussion or to mediate when there are conflicts between two members of the assembly, he said.

To summarize briefly: This is a very special year for international politics. If we win tomorrow, our country would assume a role placing it at the center of attention in the next 2 and ½ months. Just compare this possibility with the outcast Argentina of past years, the minister said.

Caputo made this statement to Radio Mitre and Radio Splendid, over the telephone via satellite from New York.

Caputo said that the Argentine claim of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands cannot be excluded from an eventual dialogue with the United Kingdom because such dialogue will be the basis for any attempt to resume consular and diplomatic relations.

I will obviously not reveal yet the attitude Argentina will adopt during this general assembly, he said.

The Argentine foreign minister believes the voting session will be difficult because of pressures, and because this goes beyond a mere competition among the countries seeking the chairmanship of the UN General Assembly.

Caputo also denied the exsitence of a U.S. diplomatic team trying to ensure compliance with the commitment made by some countries to support the Argentine candidacy.

There is no such thing. We do have some friendly teams helping us, but the main task lies with our own mission, Caputo told the radio stations.

Caputo explained the elections process in the UN General Assembly. He said that the vote for president will be absolutely secret, contrary to the votes on resolutions. As an example he mentioned the case of the Malvinas Islands, in which case the votes were recorded on an electronic board in the assembly hall.

Tomorrow, the outgoing president will call each of the delegates to cast their votes on paper, giving the name of their candidate in absolute secrecy. The outgoing president will then choose two representatives to count the votes and announce the new president of the assembly.

Defense Minister Views Armed Forces Problems

PY1909182088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1208 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (NA)—Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena today spoke in favor of an apolitical Armed Forces and said the "degeneration" of the leadership is due "to the long period of peace enjoyed by the country since the beginning of the century which has had a negative impact on the chain of command."

Jaunarena supported this statement by arguing that the defeat at the Malvinas Islands "brought to the limelight the severe shortcomings of the leadership, and its negative effect on the development and, ultimately, the outcome of the conflict."

Jaunarena said the objective [of the reorganization] is to create a military institution capable of guaranteeing national sovereignty, independent of the East-West conflict, and to contribute to the success of a policy designed to recover the Malvinas and South Atlantic Islands, and the defense of Argentina's rights in the southern seas." [quotation marks as received]

Jaunarena made this statement during the opening of the seminar on national defense, which will last a week, and which will explain the government's reorganization of the Armed Forces.

Jaunarena emphasized that any adjustments to the system of national defense should be drawn "mainly by the specific organizations involved, including the Armed Forces."

The defense minister spoke of the modifications that were introduced in the Defense Ministry: "The essential part of the reform will end in 1989 and will coincide with the end of the constitutional mandate of the present government."

Jaunarena said the reform of the system will involve the Armed Forces, mainly to correct "the loss of efficiency caused by the long period of peace that the country has enjoyed since the beginning of the century," as well as "the superfluous bureaucracy and Army echelons that hindered battlefield prowess. These were the result primarily of repeated aspirations toward political power on the part of the military." Regarding the country's global strategy, Jaunarena said this strategy does not imply that the Armed Forces will have to renounce their own rights or idiosyncracies, but they will have to raise their professional standards and keep the reserves well trained.

Jaunarena said the reorganization of the Armed Forces will coincide with the end of the present constitutional period. This reorganization will try to correct "some distortions" that provoked a "loss of efficiency caused by the long period of peace enjoyed by the country from the beginning of the century to the 1970's," aggravated by "superfluous bureaucracy and Army echelons that hindered battlefield prowess."

The defense minister added that the defeat in the Malvinas Islands "brought to light the shortcomings of the joint action of the three branches of the Armed Forces which negatively affected the development and final outcome of the conflict."

Jaunarena also denounced "the balance of terror" imposed by the world powers because it opens the way to all kinds of political, economic, and socio-psychological pressures. The national government "has established some political guidelines, with possible projections into the future, during its administration" to confront this challenge.

After summarizing the reforms the government intends to implement, Jaunarena said "we will try to take advantage of all military training possibilities," and added that "high-ranking personnel must have advanced knowledge in how to conduct operations."

The reform will also try "to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the public and private education system to broaden the scope of military education. We also hope that an increasing number of civilians will show concern for the problems of national defense."

Central Bank Head Cited on World Bank Loan

PY1709032388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1412 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA)—Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea today remarked on the World Bank's support for the Argentine economic program "not only" for its anti-inflationary aspect, "but also for its medium- and long-term objectives, that is, for the structural reforms that are being implemented."

Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, and World Bank President Barber Conable arrived from the United States this morning.

Sourrouille and Machinea paid a short visit to the United States, where they met with officials of the government, IMF, and international creditor bank officials. Conable has come to inform Argentine President Raul Alfonsin of the $1 billion loan granted by the World Bank to Argentina for the promotion of structural reforms in the economy.

Machinea said at Ezeiza International Airport that the World Bank loan was granted "as part of the deep relations established between the bank and Argentina during the past few years."

"We also have the support of the IDB, which will grant us a little more than $500 million this year," he added.

Machinea said that the World Bank loan will be used in the following manner: $400 million for the financial sector, $300 million for commercial policy, and $300 million for housing policy.

"Our new relation with the World Bank is important, not only because of the loan, but because this organization is assuming a more important role regarding the debt and the program we are working on. I hope the program will be finished by next week," Machinea said.

He said that "in addition to the loans, an evaluation of our macroeconomics will also be made, with a particular stress on structural reforms to achieve development."

Machinea found it hard to answer a question about whether this is the first time the World Bank has granted a credit to a country which has not reached a previous agreement with the IMF. He said: "I think it is the beginning of a new role for the World Bank."

"It is the first time that the industrialized countries are willing to give financial assistance on the condition that the World Bank grant loans, without IMF participation," he said.

In reference to the spring plan, the Central Bank president said: "A month ago many people said that this would not last more than 15 days. Now there are people who say that it will last 5 months, but I say it will last more than 5 months because the government has learned from its mistakes and because we are now carrying out structural reforms that were not carried out when other stabilization plans were implemented."

He said that "the government is absolutely determined to curb inflation and it has made a political commitment to prevent an outburst of high inflation from damaging the Argentine economy and the government itself."

Machinea said he thinks the negotiations with the IMF will conclude "by mid-October" since "we will continue the talks in Berlin, in the annual IMF assembly."

The Central Bank president said that in the United States he did not have the feeling the industrialized countries were willing to reduce the debt of the developing countries. However he acknowledged that "the developing countries are discussing this matter."

"Many countries think there is no long-term solution to the foreign debt problem, unless a reduction is granted," he added.

Regarding this issue, Machinea thinks "it will take some time before this is discussed because, among other things, there will be presidential elections in the United States."

"I think it will be hard to discuss a reduction of the debt in the international community before the U.S. elections are held," he said.

Chilean Exiles Demonstrate in Mar del Plata

PY1909215288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1820 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 19 Sep (NA)—Some three to six people, among them a reporter of Radio Mar del Plata, have been arrested in incidents during a ceremony to commemorate Chilean independence in downtown Mar del Plata. Chilean Consul Fernando Barrera Robinson participated in this ceremony.

The incidents took place during a wreath-laying ceremony at the San Martin Monument on the corner of Luro and Mitre Streets. They began when a group of Chilean exiles shouted "murderers, murderers" to express their disagreement with the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

At the end of the ceremony, the Chilean diplomat, accompanied by local authorities and chiefs of the Armed Forces, walked to the cathedral to attend a mass under strict police protection.

The demonstrators clashed with Ruben Bruno, chief of the Buenos Aires 4th Regional Police Precinct, at the door of the cathedral. Bruno, accompanied by a plainclothesman whose bandaged hand was in a sling, tried unsuccessfully to keep the Chileans from entering the church by shouting: "As a Christian I cannot allow you to be disrespectful to the house of God." [passage omitted]

Briefs

Trade Balance Surplus Statistics

The National Statistics and Census Institute has reported that the trade balance surplus for the first half of 1988 amounts to $1.258 billion, which is 109 percent higher than the surplus for the same period last year. [Excerpt] [*PY1709042388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Sep 88*]

Bolivia

Meeting Fails To Resolve Huanuni Mine Strike

PY1809005588 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1645 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Report by Nicolas Sanabria]

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Mining Committee chairman Edgar Barrientos yesterday used the words "guerrilla positions" during a meeting between the miners, COMIBOL executives, and committee members. No concrete solutions to the 17-day-old conflict at the Huanuni Mining Company could be found during the meeting. Huanuni mineworkers have demanded the implementation of the fringe benefits due them before they resume mining activities.

Taking a firm stand on this issue, COMIBOL has ruled out any possibility of working under those conditions and is asking the mineworkers to resume mining activities. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the mining minister said that COMIBOL has not asked any organization to mediate in the conflict and that, therefore, COMIBOL will not accept any decision other than the one it delivered to the mineworkers. This would mean that the discussions of the Chamber of Deputies Mining Committee are virtually meaningless.

Discussing yesterday's meeting, Edgar Barrientos said there is already some agreement.

[Begin Barrientos recording, in progress] ...where we found very (?similar) positions, both on the part of COMIBOL and on the part of the mineworkers. However, the committee has made a proposal to reconcile their positions. Although at first this proposal was not accepted by both sides, they are now beginning to accept it in part. [end recording]

Everything will be clarified next Monday at 1700 when they will meet again on the 8th floor of the Tobias Building.

Meanwhile, the Bolivian mineworkers' indefinite general strike continues.

COMIBOL Suspends Strike

PY1909134888 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The week begins with a good omen: COMIBOL's announcement to suspend the strike is interpreted here as a sign of good will, showing there is a desire to solve the problem of Huanuni through negotiations.

COMIBOL has suspended the indefinite strike that was scheduled to begin today. The cooperative attitude of workers who met with COMIBOL and Chamber of Deputies' commission representatives over the weekend made a solution possible. The nation has interpreted their attitude as a desire to find solutions, and not to block negotiations.

We believe negative experiences of the past should make us all ponder the risks of committing the same mistakes that prevented us from finding definitive solutions to our problems.

Workers and union leaders have perhaps recalled the excessive use of the right to strike during the administration of the Popular and Democratic Unity [Siles Suazo's government], and have adopted a more cautious and moderate attitude. This new attitude does not mean they have relinquished their legitimate right to struggle for better salaries and social conditions.

We believe COMIBOL has understood there is a possibility of maintaining dialogue with the government through the special congressional commission.

It is essential to solve the problem of the Huanuni Mining Company in order to solve other problems of the mining sector.r.

Labor sources have said workers want to end the conflict, which hurts the COMIBOL plan of reorganization as much as it hurts the workers' earnings, because salaries decrease when the mine stops producing.

COMIBOL has temporarily suspended the strike, hoping that negotiations, which should continue today, will yield positive results. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Nobrega To Sign $82-Billion Deal With Banks

PY1909235288 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Brazil will sign a financial package agreement totaling $82 billion with its creditor banks in New York on 22 September. The package, which is regarded as the largest ever concluded with a Third World country, includes new loans, refinancing of existing debts, and the restoration of commercial and interbanking credit.

Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega will sign the agreement for the Brazilian Government.

Mines, Energy Minister Pays Visit to Europe

PY1909145588 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves began a 15-day tour of Europe today in the FRG. He hopes to acquire generators and fuel in exchange for Brazilian coal.

Minister Chaves will also visit Sweden and Norway, and return to Brazil on 3 October.

Petrobras Plans Service Stations in U.S.

PY1909011688 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] A network of service stations in the United States with the green and yellow flag of Petrobras is part of the enterprise's plan to prepare itself for the next century. With a surplus of 100,000 barrels of oil a day, Petrobras is the largest enterprise in the world to export gasoline to the United States. To remain viable and competitive, Petrobras plans to reduce its current diversification; it will sell off some of its subsidiaries and base its business mainly on oil, both in Brazil and abroad. Petrobras plans to invest $43.8 billion through the end of the next decade.

Briefs

August Trade Balance Surplus

Government House today announced a new record surplus for the Brazilian trade balance. It reached $2.87 billion in August. [Text] [*PY1609040088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 15 Sep 88*]

Chile

Pinochet Addresses Army on 'Day of Glories'

PY2009035488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] During a ceremony to commemorate the Army's Day of Glories, President Augusto Pinochet stated that at this time our duty is to continue to guarantee the implementation of the Constitution, which was approved by most Chileans in 1980.

Pinochet greeted the members of the Army on this occasion, expressing his confidence that all Chileans will recognize the moral reserves of our soldiers and the great task they have performed.

Pinochet recalled the victory the Army has won and the conflicts it has faced thanks to the efforts and courage of its men. He said that the oath of each soldier to devote himself to the great cause of Chile has so far been fulfilled, adding that this was demonstrated on 11 September 1973, when the Army and the other branches of the Armed Forces fulfilled their obligation to defend our sovereignty and defeated those who wanted to give it up.

Pinochet stated that the oustanding accomplishment on behalf of the Chileans is being evaluated today and that its full significance will be realized only with its consolidation.

In conclusion, he asked the members of the Army to renew their confidence in victory on this special occasion, because we will finally bring about the promising future we are seeking and bequeath it to our fatherland.

Correction to Pinochet Remarks on Constitution

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Respect for Constitution," published in the 16 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 20, column two:

Page 21, column one, first paragraph, from beginning of line one, reads: [Begin Pinochet recording] [Passage omitted] We have never had a so-called dictatorship, not even a benign one. This has never been a dictatorship. People do not know what a dictatorship is, or the strict control that is exercised by one. [new graf]

This government first... (picking up first line of second paragraph, rewording)

FPMR Spokesman Advocates 'Patriotic War'

PY1909211188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1728 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Bonn, 19 Sep (EFE)—The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) today disclosed in Bonn some features of its "minimum program" for democratization in Chile, which would be implemented following the downfall of General Augusto Pinochet's government.

Marcelo Reyes, the FPMR spokesman for international relations, described the October presidential plebiscite as "a farce and a sure fraud." He said the FPMR "minimum program" is based on the communique that marked the 4th anniversary of the FPMR.

Reyes added that "following the downfall of the military dictatorship, a patriotic government of national unity should be formed, the Constitution should be abolished, and the drafting of a new constitution should be approved."

Reyes demanded that "all those responsible for human rights violations" be brought to justice and be sentenced and that "the judicial branch be reorganized." He charged judges with being "at the service of the dictatorship."

The FPMR spokesman said that as soon as the Military Junta is overthrown, "the Armed Forces must be democratized with officers and soldiers who did not commit any crime that resulted in blooshed."

Reyes, who met in Bonn with several opposition politicians of the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party, also announced that following the plebiscite, the FPMR will launch an offensive "on all fronts," and he advocated a "patriotic war."

Briefs

Trade Surplus Reported

Central Bank President Enrique Seguel has announced that July's balance of trade surplus was 120 percent larger than last July's. The surplus for this July was $138,700,000. The total trade surplus through July reached $1,395,300,000, and the country's reserves reached $2,226,600,000. The forecast for the year is that the economy will grow by 6 percent, per capita income will reach $1,715, and the GNP will reach $21,262,000,000. A breakdown for the year shows that industry has grown by 7.2 percent; electricity, gas, and water by 8.9 percent; commerce by 8.2 percent; transport and communications by 8.2 percent; agriculture and forestry by 5.4 percent; mining by 3.7 percent; and construction by 4.9 percent. [Summary] [*PY1809023088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 88*]

Colombia

Monetary Board Lowers Reserves Requirement

PA1809143488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The Colombian Monetary Board reduced the required amount of cash reserves banks must have on hand by four [percentage] points. The measure reduces the amount of money banks must deposit in the Banco de la Republica. Thanks to this measure, loans will be more easily granted and the economy will prosper.

[Begin Finance and Public Credit Minister Fernando Alarcon recording] With this measure, the economy will have greater liquidity than it has now. This measure expedites banking operations and the granting of loans. It also creates favorable conditions for reducing interest rates.

We recently reduced interest rates through administrative means. Because of the success of our economic policies, because our goals are compatible with a 5-percent GNP growth rate, and because the anti-inflationary strategy is beginning to yield results, we have been able to adopt this measure. As I said before, it will give greater liquidity to our economy in the upcoming weeks. [end recording]

'Intensive' Army-FARC Clashes in Cauca; 3 Dead

PA1909192488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Intensive clashes are taking place on the slopes of the Western Mountain Range between Army soldiers and members of the FARC's 8th Front. Three policemen have died as a result of a guerrilla ambush in the rural area of El Manco, Argelia municipality, El Cauca Department.

Briefs

Terrorist Statistics

According to official statistics released by state security agencies, a total of 432 people have been kidnapped in the past 255 days throughout the country. Of these 432 people, 60 were murdered by their captors, and 172—including men, women, and children—had to pay large sums of money to regain their freedom. The authorities were able to rescue 30 citizens. EL SIGLO has learned that of the 432 people kidnapped, 85 are being held by unidentified groups, 22 are being held by the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, 3 by the M-19, 7 by the Popular Liberation Army, and 26 by the FARC. During this period, there were 382 cases of extortion and 416 terrorist attacks. [Excerpt] [*PA1909182888 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Sep 88 pp 1-A, 2-A*]

Ecuador

Government Nationalizes Oil Industry

PA1909235988 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2306 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government today ordered total state control of the country's oil industry, with a nationalization measure that affects a British Anglo Corporation refinery, other private Ecuadoran stockholders, and the multinational Texaco Company's extraction and transportation facilities.

The measure was announced today in Congress by Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz at the beginning of his trial on charges brought against him by the opposition deputies who requested the legal documentation behind the 100-percent fuel price increase decreed on 30 August.

The minister said the measure will not affect the three foreign companies that won an international bid for the exploration and extraction of oil and that are currently exploring for oil in the country. All exploration will continue using foreign capital, Tamariz stated.

The most important of the four measures announced today by the Social Democratic government affects Texaco, which, together with the Ecuadoran State Oil Corporation, CEPE, was extracting approximately four-fifths of the country's daily crude production in an area that contains 70 percent of the country's reserves. The international consortium produces about 240,000 barrels daily, of which 110,000 barrels are produced by the Ecuadoran oil wells.

CONADE Releases Unemployment Figures

PA1209040288 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpts] More than 500,000 Ecuadoreans are unemployed and 2 million are underemployed. These figures show a gradual increase, while the public and private sectors have been unable to increase the number of jobs. Last year, the country's unemployment rate was 10.9 percent, according to figures released by the CONADE [National Development Council].

Today's unemployment rate exceeds 11.5 percent, amounting to 513,478 unemployed. The economically active population is considered to comprise people from 12 to 60 years of age. They are considered as fit and able to work. [passage omitted]

Nearly 2 million Ecuadoreans of the economically active population are underemployed. In the majority of cases, their income falls below the minimum wage. They are barely surviving with low-paying jobs. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Foreign Minister To Attend OAS Opening Session

PY1909135288 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Sep 88 p 43

[Excerpts] Tomorrow, on the international day of peace, the OAS will open its 43d session in New York. Paraguayan Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo will attend the session. The OAS office in our country has reported that the session will commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace among nations and peoples. [passage omitted]

The Paraguayan delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, includes Ezequiel Gonzalez Alsina, Senate president; Enrique Ramon Reverchon, Senate vice president; and Alfredo Canete, Paraguayan ambassador to the OAS.

Other Paraguayan senators and members of the Paraguayan permanent delegation to the United Nations in New York will also attend the session. This will be the first time that Acevedo will participate in this kind of session as Paraguayan foreign minister.

Central Bank President Leaves for Berlin Meeting

PY1909142988 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Sep 88 p 14

[Text] Central Bank President Cesar Romeo Acosta arrived in Berlin over the weekend. He and other members of the Paraguayan delegation will participate in the IMF and World Bank annual meeting of governors.

Before departing from the Asuncion international airport, Romeo Acosta said he is traveling before the Paraguayan delegation because he wants to participate in the preparatory meetings. The rest of the Paraguayan delegation will depart for Berlin on 22 September.

Regarding his mission, Romeo Acosta said he will submit a detailed and up to date report on the economic situation of our country, its recent evolution, and the short-term prospects. Asked whether he intended to emphasize any specific aspects, Romeo Acosta said: "Regarding the Paraguayan economy, as we have said before, the growth of the GNP shows that our economic situation has improved. This improvement has been reported, for instance, by the IDB, which said that our economic situation was 'good,' and that the immediate prospects were also good. This was said by IDB experts, not by me," Cesar Acosta emphasized. The Central Bank president then added: "An important aspect of these meetings are the contacts with people representing important banks and the world of international finance. These contacts permit us to work on new alternative financial resources for our economy. These resources are very scarce today," Romeo Acosta said. The bank president will return to our country on 30 September.

It is worth pointing out that last week Federico Mandelburger and Crispiniano Sandoval, both high-ranking Central Bank officials, traveled to Madrid, Spain.

Peru

Weekly Says Military, Civilians Plotting Coup

PY2009022388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1841 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 19 Sep (EFE)—Members of the Peruvian Armed Forces and civilians have held meetings to discuss the possibility of launching a coup against President Alan Garcia, the weekly SI reported today.

The magazine contends that 6 months ago military officers sounded out businessmen and church representatives in Arequipa, the second largest city in Peru, about their reaction to a coup.

According to SI, another meeting was held recently—on an unspecified date—attended by Defense Minister General Enrique Lopez Albujar. The commanders of the Armed Forces did not attend.

According to several media organizations, Lopez Albujar tendered his resignation to President Alan Garcia 10 days ago, but his resignation has not yet been accepted.

In both meetings it was stated that the coup would be bloodless, that political parties would not be isolated, and that an attempt would be made to persuade the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) that "the coup is the only way to save the country."

SI added, however, that in both meetings it was also said "Alan Garcia may not emerge alive" if a coup takes place.

According to SI, the coup plot is being prompted by the excessive influence of Alan Garcia's personality on the conduct of state affairs and by the failure of his administration.

The magazine states that the firm opposition to a coup expressed last week by leaders of the center-right-wing coalition Democratic Front proves the existence of "conspiratorial meetings."

Writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the leader of the front, condemned the coup plotters on 15 September. In a speech to the nation, he said: "If someone attempts to disrupt democracy, we will be the first ones to confront him."

The magazine SI, which is directed by journalist Cesar Hildebrant, states that "a coup has been considered as an alternative." It notes, however, that "there is still no overwhelming support for a coup in military circles."

SI contends that one factor that could help unleash a coup would be the indication by opinion polls that the leftist coalition United Left [IU] and its presidential candidate, Alfonso Barrantes, will win the 1990 election. The IU consists of socialist and communist parties.

The threat represented by the Maoist Shining Path armed group is "an important factor," although not a deciding one, for the military, the magazine says.

SI, which at no time cites specific sources, contends that there will be greater possibilities for a coup if the current economic emergency plan adopted by the Garcia administration to overcome economic bankrupcy fails and if a rapprochement with international financial organizations is not promptly achieved.

The military is also uneasy over the lack of financial resources, which prevents them from obtaining $350 million needed for purchase and maintenance of equipment.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Leaves for Venezuela, UN

PY1709192888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0500 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Sep (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano today left for Caracas, where he will attend an ECLA meeting. Tassano will then head for New York to attend a UN Assembly meeting where he will deliver a speech on 3 October. He will also meet his Group of Eight counterparts to discuss the presidential summit to be held in Uruguay in October.

Tassano will meet Latin American foreign ministers to analyze trade problems, economic relations in Latin America, and the region's foreign debt.

Diplomatic sources have reported that Uruguay will support the designation of ECLA as the Latin American organization that will raise the foreign debt issue before the creditors.

Uruguayan Carlos Perez del Castillo, who heads the ECLA, has stated that the solutions thus far designed for the foreign debt are based on "declarations" and "are exhausted."

The Uruguayan delegation to the United Nations, which will be presided over by Barrios Tassano, will be made up of ruling party Deputies Mario Caton and Guillermo Stirling and by opposition Deputies Carlos Rodriguez Labruna and Yamandu Fau, who are members of the Blanco Party and the Broad Front, respectively.

At the UN Assembly, Barrios and his Argentine, Brazilian, Colombian, Mexican, Peruvian and Venezuelan counterparts will prepare the Group of Eight presidential summit. Panama has been temporarily excluded from the group.

The presidents of the Group of Eight countries will begin their second meeting in Punta del Este, 147 km from Montevideo, on 26 October. The first summit took place in the Mexican resort city of Acapulco last November.

Bank Approves Debt Capitalization Projects

PY1609220788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0955 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Sep (EFE)—The Uruguayan foreign debt was reduced by $60.5 million after the Central Bank approved 11 investment projects included in a debt capitalization program.

The Uruguayan gross foreign debt totals $5.737 billion but the net foreign debt amounts to only $2.595 billion. The country's net reserves amount to $1.080 billion.

According to Central Bank sources the projects for capitalization of the debt include three 5- and 4-star hotels, one textile mill, one citrus juice plant, two forestry projects, three tourist projects, and one chemical-pharmaceutical project.

Two other projects were rejected for failing to meet the official requirements.

The total value of the investments is $76 million. The Uruguayan Government will deliver internal debt bonds corresponding to its share of the total investment according to the progress of each project.

The Central Bank disbursed a first installment of $17.5 million in treasury bonds for investors to begin work on the infrastructure.

The process of converting the debt into investments in the country allows the Central Bank to buy back debt notes at a 14 percent discount.

This percentage is the discount that the Uruguayan foreign debt has in international markets.

According to the Central Bank, the construction of the industrial projects will take 1 year, and the construction of the hotels will take 2 to 3 years.

Venezuela

Government To Request Restructuring of Debt

PA1909173588 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1602 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has agreed to restructure the payment of its foreign debt. Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi, members of the negotiating commission, Democratic Action Party presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez, and cabinet members met at Miraflores Palace and agreed to attend the IMF and World Bank meeting to request the restructuring of our foreign debt. Next on the agenda is to decide on the steps to be taken regarding the important matter of solving the foreign debt problem.

During the meeting, President Lusinchi, members of the negotiating commission, presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez, and the ministers discussed the Venezuelan Government's strategies in its search for additional funds and a way to cancel the country's foreign debt commitments. All the meeting's participants agreed that the debt should be restructured. They also reviewed matters that Venezuela will raise at the upcoming IMF and World Bank meeting in Berlin. Following the meeting, Finance Minister Hector Hurtado said:

[Begin Hurtado recording] This afternoon, all the commission members met. We are all in Venezuela right now. We reiterated [words indistinct] and expanded on the preliminary report we had presented earlier. We felt it was important that outstanding leaders of the [Democratic Action] Party and our party's presidential candidate, former President Perez, should be present.

We have informed them of the suggestions we presented to the international banks and the banks' reactions to our suggestions. We reviewed our suggestions and the reactions of the bankers to them. Next we will have to face the Berlin round of talks. In Berlin, we will request meetings with a group of six banks. This group of banks is not as large as the ones we contacted during our seven-country tour. [end recording]

Suriname

District Commissioner on Conflict in East

FL1909183088 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] District Commissioner (Lishana Debrato) regrets the fact that the so-called interior intellectuals want Holland to mediate in the conflict in east Suriname. (Debrato) says this is a Surinamese question and Holland should not interfere in it.

He further said the situation in the interior has entered another phase. Brunswijk is not (?only coordinating incidents) by persons from abroad, but also by individuals from Paramaribo.

(Debrato) is of the opinion that the position of the tribal chiefs should be confirmed. He said neither the 1975 resolution nor the one of last year said something about this despite the fact that before independence the issue was already brought up.

District commissioner of the Sipaliwini District, Commissioner (Lishana Debrato), told the DE WARE TIJD newspaper that because of the war situation in the eastern part of Suriname, there is now great unclarity.

At the moment, many things are said in any of the (?faculties), according to the district commission but it's not clear what is true and what is not. The commissioner [words indistinct] said that not all the tribal chiefs are literate. Who knows what is being presented to the tribal chiefs for their signatures, wonders the commissioner.

Importers Dissatisfied With Netherlands Agreement

FL1909181588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] The Governments of Suriname and Holland have agreed that centers will be made in both countries for the supply of foodstuffs within the framework of the Dutch bridge-over aid to Suriname.

The proposal comes from the Surinamese Government after Holland had noted that the Dutch Government purchasing board will deliver the goods.

Surinamese importers are dissatisfied with this arrangement. They say it hardly makes any sense to tender if the Dutch companies are also allowed to do so. The local importers are of the opinion that they don't have a chance because it is unimagineable that they will have no [words indistinct] Dutch company.

Vice President Henck Arron declared on Friday that the Surinamese delegation will go to Holland to [words indistinct]. He said the government has made sure that Suriname's dignity is kept high.

The importers are, however, of the opinion that the final resort will be that Suriname will present a shopping list because local importers do not have a chance against the Dutch companies.